

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 071130Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7028
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 3384

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PORS, TC
SUBJECT: SUPREME COUNCIL MOVES TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL CONTROL
OF POLICE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AT ITS MEETING DEC 5 SUPREME COUNCIL
OF RULERS OF UAE AGREED TO MEASURES AIMED AT CONFIRMING THE
MANDATE OF FEDERAL MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR MAINTAINING
INTERNAL SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING
CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION AND INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES. CLEARLY
DESIGNED TO TRY TO REDUCE INTERFERENCE BY LOCAL AUTHORI-
TIES IN MATTERS PROPERLY UNDER INTERIOR'S JURISDICTION,
MEASURES APPROVED BY SUPREME COUNCIL:

A. GIVE FULL POWERS TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO
IMPLEMENT FEDERAL LAWS CONCERNING POLICE, SECURITY,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION, PASSPORTS. LOCAL
AUTHORITIES ARE SPECIFICALLY PRECLUDED FROM INTER-
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FERING IN IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORT MATTERS.
B. AUTHORIZE MINISTER TO REORGANIZE CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE ON NATURALIZATION AFFAIRS AND TO REVIEW
WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEES ESTABLISHED IN EACH EMIRATE.
C. AUTHORIZE MINISTER TO REVIEW CASES OF NATURALI-
ZATION OBTAINED THROUGH FRAUD.
D. GIVE MINISTRY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND FULL CONTROL

OVER ALL BORDER POSTS, SEAPORTS, AND AIRPORTS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL ENTRY.

E. SUSPEND SEVEN-DAY TRANSIT VISA SYSTEM AND REQUIRE THAT HENCEFORTH ONLY TRAVELLERS WITH VALID VISAS ISSUED PRIOR TO ARRIVAL BE PERMITTED ENTRY.

F. PROHIBIT TRADE IN FIREARMS AND TERMINATES EXISTING ARMS TRADE LICENSES.

G. AUTHORIZE CID TEAMS TO MOVE FREELY THROUGHOUT EMIRATES TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES AND IMPLEMENT COURT JUDGEMENTS.

H. UNIFY TITLES OF SENIOR POLICE COMMANDERS THROUGHOUT THE EMIRATES.

I. CONFIRM FULL AUTHORITY OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN POLICE AND SECURITY ORGANS AND TO OVERSEE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

J. GIVE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH POLICE POSTS AS AND WHERE NEEDED ACCORDING TO BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS.

2. COMMENT: SHAIKH ZAYID HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR SOME TIME FOR TIGHTER FEDERAL CONTROL OVER INTERNAL SECURITY AND POLICE APPARATUS AS WELL AS OVER IMMIGRATION. THIS PAST SUMMER'S AMNESTY FOR AND DRIVE TO REGISTER AND REGULARIZE STATUS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS (ABU DHABI A - 77) REVEALED NEARLY ONE HUNDRED CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUSAND ILLEGAL OR IMPROPERLY DOCUMENTED ALIENS IN THE EMIRATES, BRINGING HOME MAGNITUDE OF IMMIGRATION PROBLEM AND NEED FOR CLOSER SUPERVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE MATTERS AT FEDERAL LEVEL. MOREOVER, RELATIVE EASE WITH WHICH CERTAIN ALIENS WERE ABLE TO GET INDIVIDUAL RULERS OR THEIR INFLUENTIAL ADVISERS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH UAE PASSPORTS OR RESIDENCE PERMITS UNDERSCORED NEED FOR CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL MINISTRY'S AUTHORITY IN THIS AREA. SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNAL SECURITY FIELD, INCLUDING OCTOBER HIJACKING OF LUFTHANSA AIRLINER TO DUBAI AND ESPECIALLY OCTOBER 25 SHOOTING AT ABU DHABI AIRPORT IN WHICH A UAE CABINET MINISTER DIED FOLLOWED NOW BY TENSIONS ALONG RAS AL-KHAIMAH-OMAN BORDER, HAVE HEIGHTENED UAE LEADERSHIP'S SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT BRINGING ONLY NOMINALLY INTEGRATED POLICE FORCES OF THE INDIVIDUAL EMIRATES UNDER TIGHTER CENTRAL CONTROL. SUPREME COUNCIL'S DECISION WOULD INDICATE THAT ZAYID HAS NOW GAINED AT LEAST GRUDGING ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER RULERS OF NEED FOR MORE CENTRALIZATION AND UNIFORMITY IN FIELD OF POLICE AND INTERNAL SECURITY.

3. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOWEVER WHETHER SUPREME COUNCIL DECISION WILL ACTUALLY BE TRANSLATED INTO SUBSTANTIAL AS WELL AS FORMAL FEDERAL CONTROL OVER VARIOUS EMIRATES' POLICE FORCES. SOME FORCES, LIKE THOSE IN DUBAI AND RAS AL-KHAIMAH, HAVE RETAINED CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM CENTRAL AUTHORITY AND ARE STAFFED IN SENIOR RANKS BY OFFICERS WHO IF NOT CLOSE RELATIVES OF THE RULER ARE BEHOLDEN TO HIM RATHER THAN TO FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THEIR POSITIONS. THEY WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO CHECK WITH RULERS FIRST BEFORE COMPLYING WITH ANY INSTRUCTIONS THEY MAY RECEIVE FROM FEDERAL MINISTER. AS IN CASE OF FORMAL BUT STILL FAR FROM REAL UNIFICATION

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CATION OF THE VARIOUS EMIRATES' DEFENSE FORCES IN MAY 1976, THIS LATEST MOVE TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL COORDINATION AND CONTROL OVER INTERNAL SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES WILL BE MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN SUPERFICIAL CHANGES (SAME UNIFORMS AND BADGES, EQUIVALENCY OF RANKS AND TITLES, ETC.) THAN IN TRANSFORMATION INTO A TRULY UNIFIED AND NATIONAL POLICE.
DICKMAN

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